

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/863,997

Applicant(s)

SHAW ET AL.

Examiner

CHAN S. PARK

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-9. *These claims will be renumbered as claims 1-7.*
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- Chan S. Park*
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060427.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tran Douglas

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 2/17/06, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-3 and 6-9** are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Cummings, Reg. No. 46,650 on April 27, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9, line 1, "the markings" should be -- the first and second markings --.

ALLOWANCE

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-3 and 6-9** are allowed. These claims will be renumbered as claims 1-7.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1 and 6 define an apparatus/method for printing along top edge and bottom edge on a front face of a mailpiece using a fixed print head, wherein first markings associated with a first mailpiece orientation and second markings associated with a second mailpiece orientation are selectively printed according to the orientations of the mailpiece. The claims distinguish over the prior art in that the fixed print head prints the first markings and second markings that are rotated on the print head about 180 degrees from the first orientation of the mailpiece based on the orientations of the mailpiece fed into the fixed print head.

Many prior art references teach the concept of inverting the image data for printing the image data when the mailpiece is fed in inverted orientation. Once such example is Yoshikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,902) as depicted in fig. 2. However, Yoshikawa and other such references do not print the first and second markings associated with the first and second orientations of the mailpiece using the fixed print head.

Finally, other references teach the method for printing both first and second markings based on the orientations of the mailpiece. Once such example reference is Noy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,730,533). However, Noy does not teach the method for

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printing along top edge and bottom edge on a front side of a mailpiece. Rather, Noy prints on the front and back sides of a paper.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. With respect to claim 2, Examiner suggested amending the limitation of "what first set of markings and/or second set" to -- what the first set of markings and/or the second set -- during the telephone interview on 4/27/06. The applicant disagreed. The applicant explained that a particular set of first markings and/or a particular set of second markings are selected and printed based on the query results. For example, when a name of a particular recipient is determined by the optical character recognition, the set of markings related to the recipient will be selected and printed. Thus, no amendment is made to claim 2.

Contact Information

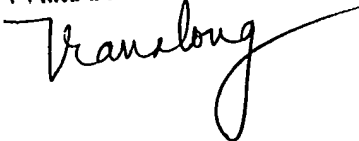
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

csp
April 27, 2006

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

